

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel** claims 3 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, **amend** claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9, and **add** claims 10-16, as follows:

1 **1. (Amended)** A workflow control method in a workflow system connected to a
2 plurality of client computers for carrying out business procedures each comprising a plurality
3 of related business processes, at least one of the business procedures being allowed to execute
4 some of the business processes simultaneously, said workflow control method comprising the
5 steps of:

6 previously defining status changes to be detected in business processes when a plurality
7 of related business processes are executed simultaneously by said client computers;

8 detecting an occurrence of an abnormal status change in one of the plurality of related
9 business processes;

10 selecting at least one user who is in charge of a business process interdependent to the
11 business process in which the abnormal status change was detected; and

12 notifying a client computer corresponding to a selected user of the occurrence of
13 abnormality in the related business process.

1 **2. (Amended)** The workflow control method according to claim 1, wherein the
2 abnormal status change in the business processes to be detected includes a discontinuance of the
3 business processes.

2 4. (Amended) The workflow control method according to claim 1, wherein the
3 selection of at least one user is carried by referring rules defining the relation between
predetermined business procedures and related client computers.

1 5. (Amended) A workflow system connected to a plurality of client computers for
2 executing business procedures each including a plurality of business processes, at least one of
3 the business procedures being allowed to execute some of the business processes simultaneously,
4 comprising:

5 a status watcher for detecting a status change in a business process being executed,
6 including an occurrence of an abnormal status change in the business process;

7 a workflow engine connected to the status watcher, for controlling the execution of each
8 of the business procedures based on the status change detected by the status watcher and
9 predetermined business procedure definitions; and

10 a notifier for notifying at least one of the client computers of the occurrence of the
11 abnormal status change detected by the status watcher, the user of the client computer being in
12 charge of a business process interdependent to a business process in which the abnormal status
13 change was detected.

1 6. (Amended) The workflow system according to claim 5, wherein the status watcher
2 detects a discontinuance of the business process as said abnormal status change.

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1 **8. (Amended)** The workflow system according to claim 5, further comprising a
2 resource selector for receiving an instruction and an identifier of the business process on which
3 the abnormal status change was detected from the workflow engine, and selecting the client
4 computer to be notified of said abnormal status change by referring predetermined rules
5 previously defining the relation between predetermined business procedures and client
6 computers, thereby to designate the client computer to said notifier.

1 **9. (Amended)** A storage medium capable of reading out stored information therefrom
2 by a computer which stores programs for realizing the workflow control method defined in claim
3 1 as said stored information.

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1 **-10.** The workflow system according to claim 8, wherein the status watcher, the
2 workflow engine, the notifier and the resource selector are individual programs executed
3 concurrently to control the execution of each of the business procedures.

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1 **11.** The workflow system according to claim 8, further comprising an exception
2 handler unit for creating attributes to handle the abnormal status change detected by the status
3 watcher; and a user retrieval unit for selecting the user of the client computer in charge of a
4 business process interdependent to the business process in which the abnormal status change was
5 detected by the status watcher.

1 **12.** A workflow management system for controlling an order of execution of
2 business procedures each including a plurality of business processes and at least one business
3 procedure being allowed to execute some of the business processes simultaneously, said
4 workflow management system comprising;

5 a client application to be executed by one or more client computers;

6 a server application to be executed by a server computer for communicating with the client
7 application;

8 an application database for storing data for the server application;

9 a status watcher for detecting a status change in a business process being executed in the
10 application database, including an occurrence of a discontinuance in a business process;

11 a workflow engine for controlling the execution of each of the business procedures based
12 on the status change detected by the status watcher and predetermined business procedure
13 definitions; and

14 a notifier for notifying the occurrence of a discontinuance in the business process to at least
15 one of the client computers.

1 **13.** The workflow management system according to claim 12, further comprising a
2 resource selector for receiving an instruction and an identifier of the business process on which
3 the discontinuance was detected from the workflow engine, and selecting the client computer to
4 be notified of the discontinuance by referring predetermined rules previously defining the relation
5 between predetermined business procedures and client computers.

1 **14.** The workflow management system according to claim 12, wherein the status
2 watcher, the workflow engine, the notifier and the resource selector are individual programs
3 executed concurrently to control the execution of each of the business procedures.

1 **15.** The workflow management system according to claim 12, further comprising
2 an exception handler unit for creating attributes to handle the discontinuance of the business
3 process detected by the status watcher; and a user retrieval unit for selecting the user of the client
4 computer in charge of a business process interdependent to the business process in which the
discontinuance was detected by the status watcher.

1 **16.** The workflow management system according to claim 15, wherein the user
2 selection is made by referring rules defining the relation between predetermined business
3 procedures and client computers.--